

Amendments to the Specification:

Page 1, after line 1, insert the following title and paragraph:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a U.S. national stage of application No. PCT/DE99/02599, filed on August 19, 1999.

B1 Priority is claimed on that application and on the following application(s):

Country: Germany, Application No.: 198 37 692.8, Filed: August 19, 1998.

Page 7, please replace the paragraph starting on line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

B2 ~~-- In the interplay between the The pipe handling device (lacuna), allows the drilling machine can to be automatically supplied with pipe in a rapid and reliable manner, especially since the pipe handling device is able to take pipes from various pipe racks, especially pipe boxes, and feed them to the drilling machine. Such an embodiment is very particularly advantageous in conjunction with a drilling rig which comprises at least two drilling machines, in which case one pipe handling device can be dispensed with.~~

Page 17, please replace the paragraph starting on line 7, with the following amended paragraph:

B3 ~~-- The pipe is removed from a pipe rack (not shown) by means of the pipe handling device 23 and passed via the rails 24 to the drilling machine. The pipe 25 is fed by means of a gripper 125 to the pipe receiving unit 122 until it can be encompassed by the elevator~~

B3

6, which moves downward into the appropriate position. The pipe ramp 126 is optionally provided to secure the lower part of the pipe. A pivot device by which the boom 124 can be moved into a vertical plane is designated 123. The blow-out preventer (BOP) stack, above the well 130 (not shown), is designated 129.